

At home and abroad, one in five Americans is touched by the Red Cross every single year. The American Red Cross was instrumental in providing immediate response to the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in January of this year. Currently, more than 100 people are representing the American Red Cross in Haiti. This includes 30 specialists providing relief distribution and telecommunications support and 14 employees, who were permanently based in Haiti prior to the earthquake and are helping to guide the response, in addition to over 50 Creole-speaking interpreters on the USNS *Comfort*. The American Red Cross is also responding to the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Chile on February 27, making an initial \$50,000 pledge from its International Response Fund for relief operations. In addition, the American Red Cross will continue to monitor the potential impacts of Saturday's tsunami and is prepared to help the people of Hawaii and the U.S. territories in the Pacific, if there is a need.

In addition to deploying relief workers and other disaster management specialists, the American Red Cross is providing relief supplies for 130,000 Haitians including blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, water containers and mosquito nets. The Red Cross has also provided three million pre-packaged meals to the United Nations World Food Programme in Haiti as well as funding to help feed an additional 1 million people for a month. The organization has also partnered with Population Services International to provide more than 1 million water-purification sachets, to ensure that Haitian families have access to clean drinking water. The Red Cross has also provided nearly 750 units of blood for Haiti earthquake survivors. As of early February, the American Red Cross has received over \$225 million for the Haiti relief and recovery effort, and 91 cents of every dollar is going directly to critical humanitarian services and programs. That is why I partnered with the Red Cross of Greater New York to help with Haiti response efforts.

Just one week after the 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, the NY Red Cross, working in partnership with Local 1199SEIU, NAACP, Haitian Americans United for Progress, Councilman Mathieu Eugene and my office, was able to provide volunteer translators. The Red Cross of Greater New York has since deployed over forty Creole-speaking volunteers, to serve on the US Navy's hospital ship, the USNS *Comfort* anchored off the coast of Haiti. The Greater New York chapter has also helped thousands of Haitian Americans in my district connect with their family members in Haiti. Representing the second largest concentration for first and second generation Haitian immigrants, I applaud the Red Cross' Resorting Family Links programs, which has worked to register over 30,000 people affected by the earthquake. To date, the Red Cross of Greater New York has facilitated nearly 2,000 phone calls between earthquake survivors and their family abroad. Throughout the Greater New York region, the Red Cross provides invaluable services that protect the life and health of all New Yorkers.

The American Red Cross of Greater New York is a key humanitarian partner providing immediate aid to as many as 100,000 New Yorkers affected by local disasters each year. When disaster strikes a densely populated urban area, the emergency-care needs are

huge and immediate. Recently in my district, the Red Cross of Greater New York launched their "March to 200" campaign with the goal of training 200 Red Cross volunteers in shelter leadership roles. It is this dedication to service and preparedness which makes the Greater New York Red Cross a valuable asset to all New Yorkers.

The Red Cross of Greater New York would not be what it is today without the priceless work of CEO Terry Bischoff. Her dedication and compassion have inspired us all, and her leadership has transformed the capacities of this organization. She will most certainly be missed, but the effects of her work will be lasting. Whether it is an earthquake or a single family home fire; a call for blood or a call for help, the American Red Cross is there. I ask all my colleagues join me today in applauding the hard work of the American Red Cross volunteers and celebrating March as American Red Cross Month.

THANKING THE PERSHING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a group of Nebraskan students for doing their part to help in the Haiti relief efforts. Pershing Elementary students in Lexington, Nebraska decided to get involved and each class took part in a penny drive in order to provide money to the victims of the earthquake.

While the entire elementary school took part in the fundraiser, it was the third grade class which was the driving force behind raising money for Haiti. The students had seen images of the victims and the horrible destruction which took place on the island and they took it upon themselves to go classroom to classroom, raising \$877. The third graders raised money so the victims could "buy supplies and build hospitals."

I am extremely proud of the elementary students in Lexington. Their efforts to help those in need are inspiring; and I thank them for helping spread Nebraska generosity. I am grateful to have such excellent students in my district.

HONORING GUEST CHAPLAIN,
JOHN L. BEAVER, NATIONAL
CHAPLAIN, THE AMERICAN LE-
GION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to personally welcome to the House, our guest chaplain, John L. Beaver of Mobile, who hails from the First Congressional District of Alabama.

John L. Beaver was appointed National Chaplain of The American Legion on August 17, 2009, during the closing session of the 91st National Convention in Louisville, KY.

A retired U.S. Air Force veteran with more than 20 years military service from the Viet-

nam War era to the time of the Lebanon/Grenada conflicts, Chaplain Beaver has performed religious duties at the local Post, District, State and National levels since joining the American Legion in 1989.

Chaplain Beaver is well known and respected in South Alabama for his humanitarian work with an emphasis on aiding homeless persons.

In the aftermath of the September 2005 crisis following Hurricane Katrina, Chaplain Beaver coordinated regional relief efforts on behalf of The American Legion, a fellow veterans' service organization and church organizations.

He was instrumental in the operation of supply depots and distribution sites to aid storm victims all along the stricken Gulf Coast.

A pastor assistant and Sunday school superintendent, Chaplain Beaver's primary ministry is the visitation of—and care for—shut-ins at area hospitals, assisted living facilities, veteran's homes and homeless shelters through the ministries of the Fowl River and Kingswood United Methodist Churches in the Mobile, Alabama area.

I join my colleagues in welcoming Chaplain Beaver to the U.S. House and in thanking him for his service to our veterans and our community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,636,662,956,140.07.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,998,237,209,846.20 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$60,984,093,238.39 since just yesterday.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during Friday's three rollcall votes and Monday's four rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall numbers 109 and 110, and "yes" on rollcall numbers 111 through 115.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 (H.R.
2701)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H.R.